

Huntington NY— Saturday, Congressman Steve Israel (D-Huntington) called for FEMA to enlist the help of US Forest Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service workers to clear downed trees and debris in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Following Hurricane Irene, many on Long Island lost power for over a week, waiting for LIPA officials to restore power as workers struggled to both restore downed power lines and remove fallen trees and debris.

The full text of the letter from Congressman Israel is below.

October 27, 2012

W. Craig Fugate

Administrator

Federal Emergency Management Agency

500 C Street SW

Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Fugate,

With Hurricane Sandy on its way up the shore I am particularly concerned about the possibility of lasting power outages like Irene, where many of my constituents were without power for more than a week. As was noted on today's FEMA conference call, the duration of the coming storm may inhibit early recovery efforts.

To assist in rapid recovery from Hurricane Sandy, I would urge FEMA to enlist the help of the National Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife personnel trained and equipped to remove fallen trees and debris. During Irene, the local power authorities had to wait for tree removal, making the process longer. I believe an all hands on deck approach is necessary. If FEMA can call upon the help of the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife, the recovery time from this Hurricane could be improved.

I would be happy to offer any assistance in this or any other matter relating to Hurricane Sandy preparation and recovery.

Sincerely,

Steve Israel